

University of California Berkeley, the University of Idaho, and now the University of California Riverside. Chancellor White is internationally recognized for his discussion of physiology in various published medical journals and editorials. With more than 30 years of service in higher education, Dr. White's experience is not only an impressive accolade, but a symbol of his passion and tireless commitment toward the sharing of knowledge and ideas. The University of California, Riverside will benefit greatly from Dr. White's impressive knowledge and skills, especially as it embarks on the establishment of a medical school.

Riverside is an area that calls for great leaders that are ready to achieve goals that will propel both the university and the community forward. Dr. White has proven he is a true leader and his experience and passion will greatly benefit UC Riverside, a proud part of the Riverside community and the state of California. Chancellor Timothy P. White represents a welcome addition to the University of California at Riverside and to the region it serves. On behalf of the Inland Empire delegation, I wholeheartedly welcome Dr. White as the eighth distinguished Chancellor of the University of California, Riverside and look forward to working with him for many years to come.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chair, the mortgage foreclosure crisis is the center of the financial crisis that our country is now facing. And, until we take on the foreclosure crisis, and find a way to help keep people in their homes, we are never going to get to the root causes of our economic downturn.

That's why I support judicial modification of primary residences in bankruptcy proceedings. This important provision in H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, would allow judges who are presiding over bankruptcies to modify the terms of a mortgage, allowing homeowners who are trying to keep their heads above water and stay in their homes. The more people who are facing foreclosure, the worse this crisis is going to get.

It's important that, as this bill makes its way through Congress, we work with our counterparts in the Senate to ensure this provision isn't used as a tool for those who would be tempted to commit fraud. It's equally important to ensure that those institutions who have acted in good faith are not unfairly punished by the good intentions of this bill. There are many lenders, like some of the credit unions in my district, who have not traded in the subprime market, and have bent over backwards to keep their members in their homes. It would be shameful if anything that we are doing with H.R. 1106 negatively impacted those who are actively trying to solve the foreclosure epidemic from the lending side of the ledger.

Mr. Chair, I hope that this is only the first of many bills that come to the House Floor to address the housing crisis, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS, THE OECD, THE OSCE, THE NATO SCHOOL, AND THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL EUROPEAN CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, from February 14–21, I led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Brussels and with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, and to additional meetings at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, Austria, and the NATO School and Marshall Center for Security Studies in Germany. The co-chair of my delegation was the Hon. JO ANN EMERSON. In addition, Representatives JOHN BOOZMAN, BARON HILL, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, CHARLIE MELANCON, JEFF MILLER (Brussels only), DENNIS MOORE, MIKE ROSS, and DAVID SCOTT, and staff, worked to make this a highly successful trip during which we examined current NATO issues, above all NATO's engagement in Afghanistan, the alliance's evolving relations with Russia, and the effect of the global economic downturn on NATO operations.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) consists of members of parliament from the 26 NATO states, as well as members of parliament from candidate states Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia (or Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM), and other associated states such as Russia, Georgia, and Ukraine. Last fall, I had the honor of being elected to serve a two-year term as President of the Assembly. In this capacity, I preside over meetings during which delegates discuss and debate a range of issues of importance to the alliance. Delegates have the opportunity to listen to presentations by specialists from NATO and on NATO affairs, and to engage in discussion of the issues raised. An additional element of the meetings is the opportunity to meet and come to know members of parliaments who play important foreign-policy roles in their own countries. These responsibilities can include setting defense budgets and determining the operational restrictions placed on deployed forces. Some of the acquaintances made through the NATO PA can last the duration of a career and are invaluable for gaining insight into developments in allied states.

NATO will celebrate its 60th anniversary at a summit in Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany on April 3–4, 2009. Discussion during the NATO PA's February meetings were dominated by four key issues expected to be addressed at the April summit: NATO's stabilization mission in Afghanistan; its evolving relations with Russia; plans to draft a new NATO Strategic Concept; and the effects of the global economic downturn on national security and allied commitments to NATO. Our

counterparts from NATO-member parliaments also expressed particular interest in the foreign policy goals of the 111th Congress and of the new U.S. Administration. As I will elaborate in a moment, my colleagues and I took the opportunity to respond to questions on these issues and to present our views on the current direction of U.S. foreign policy.

The key issue facing the alliance is NATO's effort to bring security and stability to Afghanistan. NATO has staked its reputation on accomplishing the Afghan mission by sending a sizeable force, extolling the alliance's capability for global reach, and expending resources to rebuild the political and economic structure of a country from which emanated the most devastating terrorist attack in western history. Failure in Afghanistan would likely call into question the future of the alliance. Approximately 55,100 troops from 39 countries currently serve in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), with NATO members providing the core of the force. The United States now contributes approximately 24,000 troops to ISAF. In February, President Obama announced that the United States will send an additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan in the coming months. Forces from the United States, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the UK bear the brunt of the fighting. The inequity of burden-sharing in combat operations remains an important point of contention in the alliance, and is a factor in domestic opposition to the conflict apparent in states that contribute the most combat forces. Each of us on the delegation made an effort to urge our counterparts from NATO parliaments to support ISAF and to contribute the forces and resources necessary to stabilize Afghanistan. Our delegation also emphasized that success in Afghanistan will depend on more than just military efforts, and called on the alliance to develop a more comprehensive political strategy for the region that includes increased engagement in Pakistan.

Relations between NATO and Russia in 2008 reached their lowest point since the end of the Cold War. Russia vocally opposed U.S.-supported proposals to strengthen NATO ties with Georgia and Ukraine, and Moscow's opposition to a proposed U.S. missile defense installation in Poland and the Czech Republic has sparked contentious debate about the merits of the U.S. plans. Tensions between NATO and Russia escalated in the wake of Russia's August 2008 invasion of Georgia, after which the sides suspended formal ties in the NATO-Russia Council (NRC). Low-level cooperation between NATO and Russia resumed in January, and formal ties in the NRC could resume after the April summit. NATO members remain divided on how to manage relations with Russia. Our delegation contributed to a number of forceful discussions on the future of NATO-Russia relations and emphasized the importance of developing a unified approach toward Russia within the framework of a broader alliance policy toward the east.

Proposals for a new NATO Strategic Concept were a third topic of discussion at NATO PA meetings. NATO's current Strategic Concept was drafted in 1999 and a growing number of allied governments have called for the